Overhauling of Indian Meteorological Department

411. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article authorized by Chairman "Inter-governmental Panel on Climate change" wherein he has pleaded for an overhaul of the Indian Meteorological Department in the wake of Tsunami disaster; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India Meteorological Department requires an overhaul in terms of personnel and upgradation of equipment, both prior to and after Tsunami. The Ministry of Science & Technology is thinking of various possibilities. As regards upgradation Ministry has already taken steps in that direction. Once details are finalized appropriate steps will be taken.

Advanced technology for forecasting Tsunami

412. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details with regards to utilization of advanced technology and Software, for correctly forecasting the Tsunami disasters, much in advance to save the affected places from disaster;

(b) the present status of action taken so far, in expediting the utilization of latest technology for forecasting Tsunami disasters; and

(c) the details of budget released, purpose-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) There are likely locales in the Indian Ocean where undersea earthquakes of magnitudes capable of generating Tsunamis can occur. A network of sensors covering these areas is proposed to be put in place at ocean bottom for monitoring the propogation of Tsunami waves in these areas and sending real-time signals to a centralized node. Advanced state of the art technology is proposed to